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Secret. H-37—150,000—21-6-48.

Desp dispatch (1948) Department.

M9 SERIES.

G.O. No.	5716
Dated	9 11 48

[Despatch Abstract.]

AGRICULTURE : PROVINCIAL FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE : THIRD MEETING ON 27-10-1948 : AGENDA : NOTE ON THE EFFECT OF FOOD CONTROL MEASURES ON GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN : PAPERS RECORDED.

FOOD DEPARTMENT.

Dev. Deptt. have suggested the following item to be placed on the Agenda for the Provincial Food Advisory Committee Meeting to be held on 27-10-1948:-

"Effect of Food Control measures on G.M.F."

A

Their note on the subject is placed at "B" below. They consider that the Food Policy re: procurement and prices affects the Grow More Food schemes dealt with in their Deptt. for the reasons stated at "M" on p.2 of their draft note. They are of the view that the Members of the ~~that the Members~~ Food Advisory Committee should be invited to assist the Govt. by offering their views as to how far the measures of the Food Control affect the G.M.F. Campaign or food production. Nowhere has it been suggested in their note as to how the food policy has affected their Grow More Food Schemes. They consider that rationing is a vital responsibility the Govt. have taken upon themselves and the meagre quantum of rations now given is due to the failure of G.M.F. Campaign. This seems to be based on incorrect premises. Rationing arises out of the conditions of short supply of essential foodgrains and is not a direct result of the failure of otherwise of the G.M.F. Schemes. As a matter of fact it is the reverse. The G.M.F.Schemes are mainly intended to attain self-sufficency in food, a very sensible object to achieve, seeing that this Province is deficit in food. But it is unnecessary to connect food policy with the G.M.F. schemes nor would it seem desirable. Rationing is a necessary evil to be put up with in days of short supply of foodgrains and should be dispensed with when self succiency has been obtained. It is only towards the latter object, G.M.F. schemes are directed and should not be confused with temporary food control measures. The present reimposition of controls is aimed at arresting the infaltionary spiral to the extent possible. Further the Food Committee Meeting it not likely to meet for a long time and will most probably end by the afternoon of the 27th instant. The object in view, namely, to find out meausres for increasing the foodproduction of the Province is more likely to be achieved by calling a separate conference of big and small producers. The Provl. Food Committee which mainly consists of members of various interests rather than mainly of producers would not seem to bethe proper forum for the discussion of the subject. Besides it would appear that Public (E.&.S.) are gathering agricultural statistics as to the cost of production of the essential foodgrains in this Provice; unless this data is fully obtained, no purpose would seem to be served by discussion of this subject. In these circumstances and also in view of the fact that if the subject is to be discussed at the meeting of the Committee opposite views will have been placed before the members of the Committe, it is for orders whether it will be necessary at all to accept the suggestion of Dev. referred to "A" on p. 12 above. As Dev. has suggested that orders of H.M.(Agri) may be taken in the matter the case may be circulated to H.M.(Fdd) and H.M.(Agri) for orders.

B

For orders whether the subject should be included in the agenda and the note prepared by Dev. circulated to members.

I agree. xx/22.X. (The subject seems to be one more for inter Departmental discussion than at the Provincial Food Advisory Committee)

xx/22.X.48

The extent to which controls should be re-imposed has been indicated in the Government of India's letter. The other question, whether our prices are remunerative enough and to what extent they are likely to help or retard production has been considered in full. Most of these facts and the price suggested to the Govt. of India are all confidential and cannot be placed before the Advisory Committee for discussion at this stage. It is not therefore necessary to include the subject in the Agenda.

A

M.A.K(uttalalingam Pillai);22.X.1948
Secretary.

T.S.R(aja)/22.X H.M.(Food) | K.(Madahva Menon)/27.X. H.M.(Agri) | O.P.R./26.X. H.Pr.

Please see the orders in circulation on p.13 above. The file may be returned to Dev.

xx/27.X.

M.A.K/27.X.48
Secy.

DEV. DEPTT.

Orders in circulation on p.13 above and Food Deptt's notes above may be perused. No further action seems called for. The papers may be recorded.

A on p.13 ante: It was never suggested that the proposed prices which are being treated as Confidential shoule be divulged to the public.

B on p.12 ante: There is no confusion on this side. The ball is in the other Court.

It was suggested in another file that this Deptt. might be consulted in fixing prices. It is to be hoped that this Deptt. at least will be taken into confidence purely from the point of view of the success of the G.M.Food efforts which is supposed to be special responsibility of this Deptt.

N.M.M/16.11.48

W.R.S./17.11.48
Secretary,

G.O. (Ms) No. 5716 Dev. dated the 19th November 1948.

Abstract

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AGRICULTURE - Provincial Food Advisory Committee - Third meeting on 27th October 1948 - Agenda - Note on the effect of Food Control measures on Grow More Food Campaign - Papers - Recorded.

/True copy/

Office Assistant, Madras Record Office.

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assured of a ration by Government.

3. The question now for consideration is how for the Food

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

NOTE FOR THE FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ON 27th OCTOBER 1948.

Sub: Effect of Food Control Measures on Grow More Food Campaign.

In the Note on the "Reintroduction of Controls - Programme" issed by the Food Department for the Press Conference on 19th October 1948 it has been stated that as a resultof the deliberations of the Conference of Honourable Premiers and the Honourable Food Ministers held at New Delhi at the end of September last to ~~chalk~~ chalk out mea ures to be taken to implement the policy of re-imposition of controls, the Government of India have issued inter alia the following directions:-

(1) There must be maximum internal procrument and maximum rationing in each administrative area. The object should be to reach by October 1949 the position which existed in November 1947.

(2) It will be left to each Province to decide whether the prices of foodgrains should be controlled by fixing a maximum price statorily or otherwise, but,all Governments should declare a price at which they will have the power to requisition or procure compulsorily. The increase in price decided upon, if any, for the next Khariff year should ordinairly be limited to 25 per cent over the price that existed prior to decontrol, that is, November 1947. The new prices should be announced only with the prior concurrence of the Government of India.

The Government of Madras have now taken measures to implement the above decisions and have ordered that intensive procurement of paddy and rice should be reintroduced in Tiruchirapalli, South Kanara and Tinnevelly districts and in the rice surplus taluk of Chidambaram in South Arcot and the Periar area in Madura district. Intensive procurement should be started in other districts after the commencment of the main harvest and statutory rationing of Municipal towns should follow. They have also under consideration the fixation of prices for the next year.

2. The fixation of the price level of cereals by Government and the degree of procurement will be portent factors affecting the Grow More Food Campaign. The follcwing are some of the conteracting influences retarding food production enumerated by the Honourable Minister for Agriculture in his Budget speech on 17th March 1948 -

(1) The price control of food grains by the Government made production economically unprofitable

(2) The enormous increase in the cost of production of food grains and the increase in the cost of living of the cultivators

(3) The policy of procurement of surplus grains from culti vators discouraged them from producing the maximum that they were capable of

(4) The introduction of rural rationing, did not induce small farmers to produce enough for their own subsistance asthey were assured of a ration by Government.

3. The question now for consideration is how for the Food Control measures to be reimposed will affect roduction. If the Food Control restrictions directly or indirectly affect the Grow More Food campaignit may as well be liquidated and thep popular prejudice that lakhs of money are being spent on it may be removed. If our food policy need not bother about internal production but depend on imports, then the position is simple but actually we have to reoly on internal production. So long as wehave to fall back on our own production, food policy must be based on production.

4. With a view to increasing the production by short term schemes for a further period of Five Years from 1947-48 to 1951-52 the Government of India have programmed to produce an additional annual 3 million tons of food grains in British India (undivided). In this target of increased production the share of Madras has been fixed at 6.5 lakhs tons of rice and this Government have approved a

programme for the five year period. In this programme the principle that increased production of food should be related to the increase in population and consumption has been followed. The total increase of requirements over the normal average consumption in post war year would be progressively as follows:-

Year	Rice tons	Millets Tons	Pulses Tons
1947-48	580000	250000	280000
1948-49	650000	280000	285000
1949-50	720000	310000	290000
1950-51	800000	340000	295000
1951-52	880000	390000	300000

The above targets are based on requirements on the basis of 15 oz. to 16 oz .per capita per day. The main objective of the above short term plan is to reach a fixed target increase in production of food grains particularly of rice. Out of the 6.5 lakhs annual tons of rice to be attained by the end of 1951-52. the programme of the Agricultural Deptt. alone aims at an ultimate target of 5.5 lakhs annual tons. Similar targets of increased production for the five year pe iod have been fixed for the s chemes relati ng to Revenue and Rublic Works Departments (well sinking and irrigation schemes). The estimated forest of additional production for 1947-48 in respect of agricultural schemes if 4,27,600 tons of paddy as against the target of 3,93,520 tons.

5. It may therefore be suggested that the food policy of the Government should take into account how far it will affect production

It is not suggested that there should be no re-imposition of control of rationing - in so far as this Province has to fall in line with the All India policy in this matter and it has to depend on impo from other provinces or abroad which are controlled by the Government of India. But what is suggested is that in determining the food policy, namely, ~~permanent~~ procurment and prices the fact as to how far it will affect production should be taken into account. It is presumed that it is nobody's desire that this Province should perpetually remain a deficit province and that it should always depend upon imports from outside. Otherwise there is no meaning in the campaign for food production sponsored by the Government of India and pursued by this Government. It is true that in the past we have worked both food control and the campaign for increased production side by side and more or less independant of each other with not very happy results but such a state of affairs was necessitated by the conditions arising out of the war and it cannot be suggestedthat it was scientifially perfect or economically sound. Now that we are re-imposing food control in peace time after nearly a period of one year of de-control, it is desirable and necessary that we should frame our policy taking into account all the relevant factors and after consultation with the representatives of the people actually engaged in food production. Otherwise neither food control nor food production will be a success. It is on such considerations that the Food Advisory Committee may be invited to assist Government by offering their views as to how far the measures of food control adumbrated in the press note of the 19th October and in the press conference with the Hon. Minister for Food explaining them, will affect food production.

N.M.N/20-20-1948.

/True copy/

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Madras Record Office, Egmore.

Sk.